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Few Are Really Security Proof

THE UNFORTUNATE case of Walter Jenkins has raised again unfounded accusations of Communists and homosexuals in the federal government.

Although perfectly obvious that Jenkins has always been an honorable, extremely hard-working government official, his behavior had to be publicized due to his proximity to the President, and, of course, once publicized, the usual supercritical voices in American society couldn't wait to be heard, particularly gossip-type politicians like Rep. William Miller and Richard Nixon. Had Jenkins been the ordinary citizen, his sex deviation wouldn't have merited a line in most newspapers.

We insist it was patently plain Jenkins was a loyal American, because we can't imagine J. Edgar Hoover, the implacable Communist hunter, sending flowers and a sympathy message to anyone who could be linked to a traitorous act against this nation.

The great, prevailing fear that the individual with a sexual aberration is automatically a security risk rests upon an assumption. In a recent editorial, The Nation discusses this assumption:

".....The empirical evidence, drawn from the testimony of agency heads and the experience of certain departments of government, is that a known homosexual promptly becomes a marked target for

the enemy and is peculiarly subject to blackmail. It is also suggested that there is an element of 'emotional instability' about such persons that is itself a factor to be considered. 'Common sense' suggests that practicing homosexuals are eternal 'outsiders' in the society in which they live, with fewer ties of the kind that are supposed to make for stability and reliability. But the fact is, as the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry pointed out in a report issued in January, 1955, there has been no scientific study of the empirical evidence. It may provide a sound basis for concern; or it may not."

Homosexuality, furthermore, is but one manifestation of sexual activity.

There is the story, perhaps apocryphal, of the CIA agent, happily married, who was threatened by his Russian counterparts with a set of photographs showing him and a beautiful woman, not his wife, in an intimate association. His reported flippant response — "Superb photography. Would you fix up a set for my mother-in-law?" — illustrates what too many people forget: private sexual habits may or may not determine an individual's patriotic trustworthiness.

Indeed, if the studies of Dr. Kinsey and his researchers have validity at all, it is that the private sexual habits of Americans are completely different from what is generally supposed to be the norm and from what constitutes the law in most states. Therefore, few in government, or anywhere else for that matter, are security proof. All of us have skeletons we'd just as soon not have rattled in public; but this doesn't mean we'd betray our nation to keep them stilled.

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